

31-643 Choral Literature for Christian Worship

Spring 2014

Thursdays, 9 am – noon

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Course Purpose:

This course will provide a survey of choral literature with attention to its historical aspects, performance practice, and appropriateness in the context of Christian worship and the Church year.

Required Texts:

Ulrich, Homer. *A Survey of Choral Music*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1973
ISBN: 0155848631.

Robinson, Ray, and Allen Winold. *The Choral Experience: Literature, Materials and Methods*. Waveland Press, 1992. ISBN: 0881336505.

Dakers, Lionel, ed. *The New Church Anthem Book*. Oxford University Press. ISBN13: 978-0-19-353109-3; ISBN10: 0-19-353109-7.

Chantry Choirbook: Sacred Music for All Seasons. Augsburg Fortress Press. ISBN: 0800657772.

Other course materials:

Anthologies and octavos brought to the class by the instructor.

Assignments and Class Content:

Each class session will focus primarily on singing/playing through choral literature, with discussion of the historical aspects, performance practice, and liturgical use of each piece.

Students will:

1. Compile a personal bibliography of choral music (not included in the two anthologies used as texts), sorted by voicing, stylistic period, genre, seasonal nature, etc., to be shared among the members of the class at the end of the course.
2. Plan choral music for a parish choir for a specific season (or portion) of the church year. Students will share completed plans with the entire class.
3. Provide musical leadership in at least two class sessions, preparing one or more choral pieces for reading and instruction with the class.

Course Calendar:

- Feb 6: introduction to the course; canons
- Feb 13: unison anthems; choirs and choral programs; conducting choirs
reading assignment: Robinson and Winold, pp 3-125 (126-152).
- Feb 20: Medieval and early Renaissance music
reading assignments: Ulrich, chaps. 1 and 2.
Robinson and Winold, pp 153-203 and 323-367.
- Feb 27: 16th c. music
reading assignments: Ulrich, chaps. 3 and 4.
Robinson and Winold, pp 207-262.
- Mar 6: Baroque music
reading assignments: Ulrich, chaps. 6 and 7.
Robinson and Winold, pp 263-319 and 368-414.
- Mar 13: 18th c. music
reading assignments: Ulrich, chap 8.
Robinson and Winold, pp 415-436.
- Mar 20: 19th c. music
reading assignments: Ulrich, chaps. 9 and 10.
Robinson and Winold, pp 437-470.
- Mar 27: 20th and 21st c. music
reading assignments: Ulrich, chap 11.
Robinson and Winold, pp 471-499.
- Apr 3: music for the Advent / Christmas / Epiphany cycle
assignment: Visit the NU music library to explore the scores available. Be prepared to discuss in class how a university library may or may not be helpful to a parish musician.
- Apr 10: music for Lent and Holy Week and the Great 50 days of Easter

- May 1: African American choral music
assignment: Prepare a list of choral anthems to be used by a parish choir during: the four Sundays of Advent and the Sunday following Christmas Day; the five Sundays in Lent; the third through seventh Sundays of Easter; or any five successive Sundays during Ordinary Time. You may select any year of the three-year lectionary cycle. Please include the title, composer, author, voicing, accompaniment requirements, publisher, and catalog number.
- May 8: “world” music
assignment: choral bibliographies due
- Mar 13: larger choral works; wrapping things up
[Tues]